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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

SECRET

October 18, 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Pros and Cons of an Adenauer Visit

Pros

1. [Redacted]
2. The Chancellor almost surely wants to talk with you, and the odds are that he will be more forthcoming with you than with any other American.
3. An invitation to Adenauer to Washington would underline your own personal leadership in the crisis.

Cons

1. [Redacted]
2. [Redacted]
3. [Redacted]

Is it dangerous to have the hard men say that you brainwashed the Chancellor, and the soft men say that he brainwashed you? As an example, critics of Adenauer will recall the old Dulles-Adenauer meetings in which "the U.S. always did what Bonn wanted."

A preparatory course might be to write the Chancellor a careful letter on the substance of the problem and ask for his comment, with the thought that if you can get near agreement by such exchanges, a meeting would clinch the deal.

I have talked only to Bohlen and Thompson about this; their initial reactions are slightly pro, but both are suspending their judgment until we know what Grewe has in his pocket; he reports in tomorrow.

SANITIZED

SECRET

McG. B.

ARCHivist (NUK-SI-10)
SPM MARS DATE 2/11/83